

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05135 021621Z

67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-14 SAM-01 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03

SCCT-02 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 009051

R 021440Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7659

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5135

TEL AVIV FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS XF

SUBJ: 'ARAFAT'S LATEST EFFORTS TO OUT-MANEUVER FEDAYEEN DIEHARDS

REF: BEIRUT 4426

SUMMARY: FATAH LEADERSHIP REPORTEDLY IS MEETING IN
DAMASCUS TO DISCUSS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ME SETTLEMENT
EFFORT AND HOW THEY CAN AFFECT FUTURE OF FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT.

WE PERCEIVE FROM THIS THAT 'ARAFAT AND CO MAY AGAIN BE
TRYING MUSTER (PRIOR TO FORTHCOMING PALESTINE NATIONAL
COUNCIL MEETING) MORE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FOR THEIR "MODERATE"

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05135 021621Z

APPROACH RE SUCH QUESTIONS AS CREATION OF "RUMP" PALESTINIAN

STATE, SOLIDARITY WITH SETTLEMENT-MINDED ARAB GOVTS AND EVENTUAL
POL PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. PAST WEEK HAS WITNESSED CONTINUED EXCHANGE OF PUBLIC
RECRIMINATIONS BETWEEN PFLP AND FEDAYEEN "REJECTIONISTS"
ON ONE HAND AND PLO/FATAH "MODERATES" ON OTHER, WITH
FORMER CHARGING, INTER ALIA, THAT 'ARAFAT AND CO HAVE
BEEN WITHHOLDING PLO ARMS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM
FEDAYEEN DIE-HARDS IN ORDER WEAKEN THEIR CAPACITY TO
PURSUE "ARMED STRUGGLE" AGAINST ISRAEL AND THEREBY FORCE
THEM TO ACQUIESCE IN "SURRENDER SETTLEMENT" PROMOTED BY
US AND ISRAEL WITH EGYPTIAN SUPPORT. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY
(SEE REFTEL, "MODERATES" HAVE REPLIED IN KIND, ACCUSING
"REJECTIONISTS" OF TRYING TO SABOTAGE PALESTINIAN UNITY
BY SLANDERING FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT'S "TRUE FRIENDS" (I.E.,
SADAT) AND TOADYING TO ARAB STATES (I.E., IRAQ AND
LIBYA) WHICH ARE "INDIFFERENT" TO PALESTINIAN INTERSTS.
"MODERATES" ALSO INSIST THAT 'ARAFAT HAS WRITTEN PROMISE
FROM SADAT THAT COME WHAT MAY "THERE WILL BE NO PEACE
AGREEMENT WITH, RECOGNITION OF OR CONCESSIONS TO ISRAEL,"
AND THEY CONTINUE WARN THAT FAILURE OF PLO TO INVOLVE
ITSELF IN SETTLEMENT EFFORT FOLLOWING SYRIAN-ISRAELI
DISENGAGEMENT WILL ENABLE JORDAN, ISRAEL AND US TO IGNORE
PALESTINIAN "RIGHTS" AT GENEVA CONFERENCE.

2. IN ADDITION, AND CONCUREENT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
LATEST VISIT TO ME, WE NOTE REPORTS THAT FATAH LEADERSHIP
BEGAN SERIES OF "IMPORTANT AND ENLARGED" MEETINGS IN
DAMASCUS TWO DAYS AGO TO DISCUSS, INTER ALIA: IMPLEMENTATION
OF LAST MONTH'S FATAH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
CALLING FOOR ESTABLISHMENT OF "INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN
NATIONAL AUTHORITY" IN WEST BANK/GAZA; FATAH'S
RELATIONS WITH OTHER FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS; RELATIONS
WITH CERTAIN ARAB GOVTS "WHICH EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT
PALESTINIAN CAUSE" (IN CONTRAST WITH OTHERS WHOSE SUPPORT
IS MERELY "LIP-SERVICE"); ROOLE OF SUPETOQOWERS IN SETTCLAUNT
PROCESS, "IN LIGHT OF SOV EFFORTS PERSUADE USG
INVITE PLO TO PARTICIPATE INDEPENDENTLY AT LATER STAGE
OF GENEVA CONFERENCE"; AND PROPOSAL TO CONVENE FATAH
CONGRESS (LAST HELD IN AUG 1971) TO ENDORSE "DECISIONS"
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 05135 021621Z

REACHED BY FATAH LEADERSHIP ON ABOVE SUBJECTS PRIOR TO
PRESENTING THEM AT FORTHCOMING PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT 'ARAFAT EXPECTS MEETING
WITH SOV FONMIN GROVMKO IN DAMASCUS WITHIN NEXT DAY OR
TWO TO REVIEW SAME TOPICS, AS WELL AS TO PROPOSE
ANOTHER VISIT TO MOSCOW BY PLO DEL HEADED BY 'ARAFAT.

3. COMMENT: STRIKES US THAT MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS COULD

BE FIRST FAINT SIGNS THAT 'ARAFAT AND FEDAYEEN "MODERATES"
(THOSE WITHIN FATAH, AT LEAST) MAY HAVE FINALLY RESOLVED
TO SEIZE "REJECTIONIST" BULLBY ITS HORNS. 'ARAFAT PROBABLY
HOPES THAT BY WRINGING FIRMER POLICY STATEMENTS RE
"NATIONAL AUTHORITY" IN WEST BANK/GAZA AND FEDAYEEN
RELATIONS WITH VARIOUS ARAB GOVTS FROM FATAH LEADERSHIP,
HE CAN DEMONSTRATE TO ARABS, SOVS AND (NOT LEAST OF ALL)
SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT "MODERATES" ARE STILL IN CONTROL
OF FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT AND ARE IN POSITION TO CALL
THE SHOTS RE QUESTION OF FUTURE PLO ASSOCIATION WITH
SETTLEMENT EFFORT. HIS CAUTIOUS ATTEMPTS TO DO THIS IN
PAST HAVE FAILED, BUT--ASSUMING THAT PROGRESS TOWARD
GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT CAN BE MADE IN DAYS IMMEDIATELY
AHEAD--HE MAY STAND BETTER CHANCE OF PULLING IT OFF THIS TIME.
GODLEY

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